

**MINUTES OF THE  
COMMERCE AND WORKFORCE SERVICES  
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**  
Room S210, Senate Building, State Capitol Complex  
January 27, 2010

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Sen. David Hinkins, Co-Chairman  
Rep. Michael Morley, Co-Chairman  
Sen. Karen Mayne  
Rep. Jim Bird  
Rep. Susan Duckworth  
Rep. Jim Dunnigan  
Rep. Lynn Hemingway  
Rep. Brian King  
Rep. Ryan Wilcox

**STAFF PRESENT:** Danny Schoenfeld, Fiscal Analyst  
Karen Mitchell, Committee Secretary

Note: A list of handouts and visitors list will be filed with committee minutes

Co-Chair Sen. Hinkins called the meeting to order at 2:17 p.m.

**MOTION:** Rep. Morley moved to approve the minutes of January 12, 2010 and January 20, 2010. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Dunnigan and Rep. King absent for the vote.

Danny Schoenfeld, Fiscal Analyst, explained to the committee the information from the Proposed Budget Changes for the FY 2010 with the 5% budget reductions for the selected agencies.

**Utah State Office of Rehabilitation**

The Fiscal Analyst stated that the Department contains an Executive Director's office, and four operating divisions: Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired, Rehabilitation Services, Disability Determination Services, and Services to the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing.

He further explained that Rehabilitation Services provides services to assist individuals with disabilities prepare for, and obtain employment. The division uses the number of individuals employed for at least 90 days as a measure of its performance. They anticipate an increase in this service because of the economic future.

The Independent Living Centers goal is to increase the independence of individuals with significant disabilities. The centers provide services to reach this goal of independence. The Independent Living Centers track the number of individuals served as one of their performance measures.

Disability Determination Services tracks the number of Social Security disability cases adjudicated as one of its annual performance measures. The division is funded entirely from federal funds.

The Analyst recommends that the Legislature consider: 1) Adopt the base budget amount of \$65,571,300 for the State Office of Rehabilitation which is a 2% across the board reduction as well as the additional 3% reduction in each of the agencies as previously explained to the committee. 2) Consider the budget issues as explained in the Issues Briefs when prioritizing recommendations to the executive committee.

The Analyst responded to questions from the committee.

Sen. Hinkins turned the time over to Don Uchida for the Agency Response. A handout was provided to the committee. Mr. Uchida briefed the committee on the goals of the Office of Rehabilitation. He also stated some of the success that they have accomplished over the past year.

Jennifer Robinson, from the University of Utah Center for Public Policy and Administration, was introduced to the committee. She presented an overview of an Economic Impact Study that had been conducted over the past year by Dr. Sarah Wilhelm and herself. The primary purpose of the study was to look into the tangible benefits of the vocational rehabilitation program.

Mr. Uchida introduced Kris Fawson, representing the Legislative Coalition and Advocacy Organizations.

Ms. Fawson introduced recipients of the various agencies that spoke on behalf of the services they receive:

Laura Rough, Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired  
Bryce Pace, Independent Living/Assistive Technology  
Stephanie Mathis, Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

After each person spoke the committee responded with thanks and appreciation for what they have been able to accomplish in their lives. Questions from the committee were also answered by the recipients.

### **Department of Financial Institutions**

The Analyst stated that the Department regulates 109 institutions including, 31 commercial banks, 52 credit unions, 24 industrial banks, and 2 trust companies. In addition it regulates 37 travelers check or money order issuers, 2 independent escrow companies, 219 check cashers/payday lenders, 64 title lenders and 180 residential first mortgage loan servicers. The Department employs approximately 50 individuals. He also explained the performance measures of the Department stating their annual target is to evaluate 115 institutions. The annual target of examinations is 137 which ensures the safety and soundness of financial institutions with the state.

The Analyst recommends that the Legislature consider: 1) Adopt the base budget amount of \$5.9 million as explained. 2) Include the leased space request from the Department of Financial Institutions in the amount of \$30,000 for their current lease space.

Edward Leary, Commissioner, assisted by Michael Jones, Chief Examiner, explained they are a restricted funds agency and receive no General Fund monies. He further explained the closure of banks and the impact it leaves in the community as well as those employed in the bank. He expressed the concern of his Board regarding the restricted funds that were taken from them last year. He hopes that the Legislature would restore the funds to the Department.

Mr. Leary responded to questions from the committee.

### **Public Service Commission**

The Analyst explained that the Public Service Commission ensures safe, reliable and adequate utility service. He further stated that the Commission is requesting a supplemental appropriation of \$25,000 in FY 2011 from the Commerce Service Fund-Public Utility Regulatory Fund for the development and maintenance of a new document management system. This would allow the PSC to make all legal and public documents available immediately on the web.

The Analyst recommends that the Legislature consider: 1) Adopt the base budget amount of \$12,530,200 for the Public Service Commission. 2) Consider the budget issues raised in the Issues Brief.

Ted Boyer, Chairman, assisted by Julie Orchard, Executive Secretary, further explained the role of the Public Service Commission and responded to the presentation given by the Analyst.

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MOTION: Rep. Wilcox moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Sen. Hinkins adjourned the meeting at 3:51 p.m.

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Sen. David Hinkins, Co-Chair

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Rep. Michael Morley, Co-Chair